

Roufflet is to be effected, which will extend up to the Palace of Luxembourg, on the side of the Rue d'Enfer. The iron railing, which has been already carried up to this point, will be extended to the present point of junction.

Prizes to Fire-brigade Men at Paris.—On the 1st of this month all the detachments of the above corps (*Sapeurs-pompiers*) assembled in the barracks of the Rue Culture Sainte Catherine, in complete parade order—to witness the distribution of medals to those men who had, during the last half-year, most distinguished themselves in affording relief in cases of fire. After a short address of the commandant, five medals were distributed—one to an officer, and four to men of the rank and file.

Enlargement of Prisons and Penitentiaries in Austria.—The provincial house of correction and the founding-house have to be increased at Prague—while the number of prisoners, and the unwillingness of the inhabitants to support them, are also on the rise.

Terrible State of the Public Roads in the South of France.—The late inundations, conjointly with the carriage of an unusual quantity of bread, have ruined the public roads of Marseilles, Avignon, and Arles. That from Avignon to Arles is completely relinquished, and no vehicle can pass it without great risk. Orders have been sent for the immediate reparation of these lines of communication.

Chinese Samples of Industry.—The Secretary of State for Commerce and Agriculture has forwarded to the different chambers of commerce in the provinces, copies of the reports of the commissioners sent to China for the purpose of studying their state of industry. These reports, accompanied by original samples, will guide the French manufacturers to what will be best calculated for the China market.

New System of French Penitentiaries.—As it had been at first found, that the prison of the Rue de la Roquette (conducted on the exclusion system) exhibited a great proportion of young people dying under this treatment, a number of ingeniously planned walking spaces (*promenoirs*) have been constructed to the effect, that every one of the 400 prisoners are now taking an hour's exercise every day, without, however, being able to meet each other. Since these *promenoirs* have been erected, the mortality has decreased in the proportion of 34:1.

DRAINAGE OF IPSWICH.

THE council met a short time since, to appoint a committee to consider the propriety of proceeding with a proper system of drainage for the town to be provided for by a sufficient rate, without waiting till forced by Government into a probably more expensive measure, for which loans at 4 per cent. interest would be requisite. The mayor introduced the subject of plans made out by Mr. Fleury, architect, for the consideration of the council, according to which, a sufficient system of drainage might be effected at an expense of about 10,000*l.*; whereas it appeared probable that grants from Government to an extent of 20,000*l.* to 30,000*l.* would be necessary, without a special rate and a previous well-connormized system, to cover the heavy expense of a commission of inquiry and a system of drainage forced upon them. A report by Mr. Fleury was read, in which it was pointed out that the fall or declination of the town was much superior to that of London in the main, and would admit of considerable economy in the rise of sewers. Drain pipes, however, were recommended in certain circumstances as less expensive than brick sewers. Strong 9-inch, 12-inch, and 18-inch drain-pipes might in many cases supersede the necessity of building brick drains. Where these latter were necessary, sewers of an oval form, with the lower part semi-elliptical and the upper semi-circular, were recommended as best for affording depth of current favourable to good flushing. And besides, the oval sewer giving a sectional area leaving a higher ratio to its periphery than any other figure does to its boundary line, the circle excepted, there is much economy of materials in the construction of oval sewers. Radiated bricks would be a further saving in work, mortar, and consequently expense. The lower bed of the sewer should be built with sharp sand and stone lime, to save cement in the lower joints. The smallest size recommended would be 1 foot 9 inches, by 2

feet 6 inches clear; the largest 3 feet 3 inches by 2 feet 2 inches, the latter with man-holes. Effluvium traps, flush-log-doors, &c., were also of course attended to in the report, and it was hinted that a question might arise as to saving the sewerage for agricultural purposes. The town clerk recommended that nothing should be done without previous acquaintance with the Government plan. The committee for consideration of the subject was then appointed to report their opinion to a future meeting of the council.

DEATH IN ST. JAMES'S.

"A *NETTAN* churchwarden,"—report says the Hon. Frederick Byng,—has issued "An Address to the Inhabitants of St. James's, Westminster," on various local circumstances affecting the health of rich and poor, and which ought to have a powerful effect. If such a list of abominations as he points out is to be found in the parish "where the court is held, where palaces, and palatial club-houses, and the mansions of the great, the rich, and the powerful are situated, where the bishop of the diocese and a large staff of the clergy reside," what must be the state of things in other parishes evidently much less favoured.

The drainage the writer considers had, for it would appear that the greater portion of the sewers may be compared to an elongated cesspool! For the advantage of living over, and inhaling the noxious exhalations from this wide flat-bottomed cesspool, the inhabitants of the district have been taxed, in the course of the last 22 years, to the extent of 563,000*l.*, exclusive of the enormous outlay of upwards of one million, calculated to have been expended by private individuals, in new sewers and drains. Scarcely credible as this statement may seem, not the less startling is the fact, that simply to correct the errors of construction, on which such sums have been lavished, a rate must forthwith be levied to produce 10,000*l.*, and a like rate continue to be levied for several years. Nothing can show more clearly the mal-construction of the sewers in question, than the fact, that upon examination of the deposit of soil and filth accumulated in them, the lowest calculation of the sullage amounted to 2,500,000 cubic feet. The sewer water also, mixed with the exhalations from cesspools, is represented as filtering through the porous walls of the sewers,—percolating the earth,—sapping the foundations of the houses,—rising in the lower walls,—and tainting the atmosphere with gaseous fumes of the most noxious description.

Until recently, though heavily taxed in common with their neighbours, the inhabitants of St. James's Place have had to put up with a sewer so utterly inadequate as to render cesspools absolutely necessary. In excavating for the new sewer, besides five others in its line, no less than three cesspools were discovered in a single house. Though fresh air might enter during the day, in what state must this house have been during the night, with every modern contrivance to exclude ventilation, and the vapours from these poison-pits ascending and vitiating the air of the whole interior. Before 1841, the greater part of Piccadilly was without a sewer at all! These facts are cited, because, if this has been the state of things in two such respectable localities, it is easy to imagine the neglected condition of less important parts of the parish.

The state of some of the cow-sheds and slaughter-houses in this parish is abominable, and some of the close courts and alleys present such scenes as defy description. The simple fact, that in one district, St. James's-square, the proportion of deaths to population is one in ninety; while in another, and not the worst, the Berwick-street district, it is one in forty-two, speaks volumes. We shall be glad to see in every parish throughout the metropolis, some other "retired churchwarden" making a similar examination and exposure. "If without health, the rich man is poor, what must the poor man be?"

THE ACADEMY GOLD MEDAL, and the Discourses of Reynolds and West will be given for the best "design for a Gothic church;" the whole comprised in one general and regular composition. The design is to be as large as an entire sheet of double elephant will admit, and to consist of a plan, elevation, section, and perspective view. A silver medal will be given for the best figured drawing of the "Entrance and interior of the Temple Church."

RAILWAY JOTTINGS.

Deposits for the present session to the amount of 4,300,000*l.* have been placed, in compliance with the standing orders, to the credit of the Accountant-general of the Court of Chancery. More than half of this sum consists of stock and exchequer bills in nearly equal amounts. Several of the companies, it is understood, will be large losers by their recent Exchequer bill investments. The Eastern Counties Company are enlarging their goods depot at Bethnal Green to nearly three times its original extent. To make way for new warehouses a number of miserable thoroughfares crowded with wretched dwelling-houses have been of late demolished. The application of this company to Parliament for an extension to Guildford-street, appears to have led in some way to the mistaken idea that a terminus has been already formed in Gray's-inn-lane, out of a priory. Since a new town has sprung up around the Paddington station of the Great Western Railway, extending to the Birmingham line at Kilburn, a subscription has been set on foot for the means of erecting another new church. The new church in Hamilton-place, about the centre of this new district, is about finished, and will be consecrated during the present month. Some difficulties have arisen between the builder and the architect. Another new church is to be erected adjacent to the Regent's-park, where the Commissioners of Woods and Forests have set apart a site for the purpose. In the sinking of shafts at Birmingham, for the opening of the tunnel to the intended central station in New-street there, one of the superintendents was nearly suffocated at the bottom of a shaft, by inhaling the sulphur from a blast of gunpowder, and unfortunately, while being hastily withdrawn, fell midway from the top, and was frightfully injured. Some other test than the presence of a human being ought, in the first place, to be applied in such cases, as it easily could be, by transmission to the bottom of the shaft, and withdrawal for examination, ere a human life should be needlessly risked. The gaseous results of the explosion of gun cotton might perhaps be found in less more easily dissipated than those of gunpowder, and hence less dangerous. The tunnel at Dorchester in progress under disadvantages of an ordinary kind. The sub-contractor, after laying out some thousands, it is said, beyond the amount of his undertaking, has been obliged to throw up his contract. One great shaft is alleged, "by no incompetent judges," to have been quite unnecessarily sunk, and two almshouses, at the rear of which another "immense shaft" has been opened, have themselves, too, quite as unnecessarily sunk—"from the treacherous nature of the soil underneath," it is said, but primarily and more correctly, as it probably should have been said,—from the treacherous undermining of the "immense shaft in their rear." The South Wales Company, like another of whom we had lately occasion to speak, are urging on their contractor, and affording him too good an after excuse for defective works and probable disaster, by the temptation of "a large premium" for the completion of the works still earlier than the limits of the period which even the interests of all concerned must have originally prompted them to limit already, as far as possible, and perhaps further, than prudence, if not also further than true interest, would have prompted. The area of the central terminus at Bedford has been staked out by Messrs. Tattersall and Walker, C.E., and according to the *Bedford Times* "will be of most extraordinary extent. The Company," it adds, "have probably purchased sufficient experience to understand the meaning of 'come first, serve first,' and it needs but little foresight to predict that many of us will see a larger town on the other side of the Ouse, than 'Poor old Bedford.'" It is expected that henceforth "one of the greatest boons a railway could confer" on Bedford, will be the reduction of the price of coals, at one sweep, from 1*s.* 9*d.* per cwt. down to 1*d.* Messrs. Stephenson and Co. appear to have been prepared beforehand to confer on the inhabitants a graceful foretaste of this future benefit, and to prove to all, whether interested pro or con, that such was one determinate end to be thus at once accomplished. They had 1,000 tons of coal at Fenny Stratford, ready to pour into